UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/485
6 October 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 89 (b)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 47/195 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly welcomed the adoption, on 9 May 1992, of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; considered the Convention a first step in a cooperative response by the international community to the adverse effects of change in the Earth's climate; and called for action by States aimed, inter alia, at the entry into force of the Convention and the communication of relevant information.

2. In the resolution, the General Assembly decided that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change, established by it by its resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, should continue to function in order to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and, in that context, to contribute to the effective operation of the interim arrangements set out in article 21 of the Convention; requested the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to promote activities in support of the entry into force and effective implementation of the Convention; and called upon entities of the United Nations system to initiate and strengthen such activities.

3. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to make arrangements for the sessions of the Committee, to strengthen the capacity of the interim secretariat of the Convention to support the Committee and to maintain the two extrabudgetary funds established by resolution 45/212, respectively to support participation in the Committee and to contribute to the costs of the interim secretariat; and called for contributions from and collaboration with other entities in the work of the interim secretariat.

4. In resolution 47/195, the General Assembly also welcomed the invitation by the Government of Germany to host the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. In its resolution 48/189 of 21 December 1993, the Assembly decided that that session should be held from 28 March to 7 April 1995, subject to the provisions of the Convention; accepted with deep appreciation the invitation of Germany to host the session at Berlin; and decided to include the session in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1994-1995.

5. The present report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/195 is submitted in response to the request in paragraph 21 of that resolution, outlining action taken by States, by the Committee and by the Secretariat, in pursuance of elements of the resolution cited in paragraphs 1 to 3 above. It also refers to action taken on arrangements for the first session of the Conference of the Parties, in pursuance of resolution 48/189. In addition, the report indicates administrative action needed to ensure the continuation of work by Convention bodies and by the interim secretariat of the Convention until the end of the current programme budget biennium. At that point, it is expected that the definitive arrangements to be established by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention will come into effect on 1 January 1996. (For reference, the previous report to the General Assembly on this subject is contained in document A/47/466.)

II. ACTION BY STATES

6. Further to paragraph 3 of resolution 47/195, the Assembly may wish to note that, at the date of closure for signature on 19 June 1993, the Convention had received 166 signatures, from 165 States and one regional economic integration organization. On 21 December 1993, the fiftieth instrument of ratification or accession was received by the Depositary of the Convention. Consequently, in accordance with its article 23, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change entered into force on 21 March 1994.

7. At the time of preparation of the present report, 95 instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession had been deposited. The annex to the report indicates the dates of the receipt of the above-mentioned instruments, as well as of all signatures.

8. The General Assembly may further wish to note that, in response to paragraph 4 of its resolution 47/195, 17 national communications were received by the interim secretariat. Those communications, which were brought to the attention of the Committee, are listed in document A/AC.237/INF.12/Rev.1.

III. ACTION BY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

A. Sessions of the Committee

9. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee held four sessions in the period under review, according to the following schedule (reports indicated in parentheses):

(a) Seventh session, New York, 15-20 March 1993 (A/AC.237/31);

(b) Eighth session, Geneva, 16-27 August 1993 (A/AC.237/41);

(c) Ninth session, Geneva, 7-18 February 1994 (A/AC.237/55);

(d) Tenth session, Geneva, 22 August-2 September 1994 (to be issued as A/AC.237/76).

10. The eleventh and final session of the Committee is scheduled to take place in New York from 6 to 17 February 1995. This schedule, which is incorporated in the calendar of conferences, was confirmed by the Committee at its tenth session. 1/

1. Officers

11. At the seventh session of the Committee, its first Chairman, Mr. Jean Ripert (France), withdrew from that office and the Committee elected in his stead one of its Vice-Chairmen, Ambassador Raúl Estrada-Oyuela (Argentina). A number of other changes have taken place since the sixth session in the composition of the Bureau of the Committee and of the officers of its two Working Groups. The current composition is given in the report of the Committee on its tenth session. 2/

2. Participation

12. The number of States participating in the last four sessions of the Committee was 147, 148, 136 and 139, respectively. The large majority of delegations included representatives from capitals. The cost of representation from capitals and the availability of financial support for this from the special voluntary fund, are important determinants of participation, notably for developing countries. Constraints on both counts continue to limit many delegations to one or two representatives, with negative consequences for their capacity to cover both the different working forums and the wide range of substantive issues encompassed by the Committee. (See paras. 50 and 51 below with respect to the special voluntary fund.)

13. The executive heads of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), as well as the Chairmen of the WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and of the Global Environment Facility of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP and the

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), have participated in sessions of the Committee, contributing information and expertise from their respective organizations. Other bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations have also been represented at Committee sessions.

14. Participation by non-governmental organizations in the sessions of the Committee has been lively, bringing to bear a wide range of viewpoints, notably from the environmental and industrial constituencies.

B. Preparatory work for the Conference of the Parties

1. Process

15. The work plan drawn up by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its sixth session 3/ organized tasks in preparation for the Conference of the Parties under three main headings:

(a) Matters relating to commitments;

(b) Matters relating to arrangements for the financial mechanism and for technical and financial support to the developing country parties;

(c) Procedural, institutional and legal matters.

16. The first two clusters of issues were allocated to Working Groups I and II of the Committee, respectively. The third cluster was initially assigned to Working Group II but those tasks are now being dealt with by the Committee in plenary meetings. Under each heading, the Committee and its two Working Groups have focused primarily on those tasks specified in the Convention for action at the first session of the Conference of the Parties. The list of tasks has evolved with the progress of work of the Committee. The Committee aims, for each of those tasks, to adopt recommendations containing draft decisions for consideration and possible adoption by the first session of the Conference. The conclusions of the Committee are contained in the reports of its sessions; its recommendations and other decisions are reproduced in annex I to each of those reports.

2. Results

17. At its ninth and tenth sessions, the Committee adopted decisions and recommendations, in provisional or final form, on some items in its work plan, notably in relation to technical aspects of the communication of information related to implementation by the parties listed in annex I to the Convention (annex I parties) and the review of that information, as well as on the functions of the subsidiary bodies established by articles 8 and 9 of the Convention (Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and Subsidiary Body for Implementation). (See, on the first topic, Committee decisions 9/1, 9/2 and 10/1 and, on the second topic, decisions 9/3 and 10/2.)

(a) Review of information related to implementation

18. The regular communication and review of information on policies and measures adopted by parties and on their projected effects is one of the pillars of the Convention. That process will contribute essential inputs to the determination by the Conference of the Parties, from time to time, of the adequacy of progress towards the achievement of the objective of the Convention and, in consequence, of the possible need for stronger commitments to that end. The design of the review process is thus an important element of the Committee's work; progress achieved in that design has been satisfactory.

19. Initially, the commitment to provide information is limited to the annex I parties, namely, developed country parties, a regional economic integration made up of such parties (the European Economic Community) and parties with economies in transition. Communications from those parties, at a level of detail greater than that required of developing country parties, are due within six months of the entry into force of the Convention for them. At the time of writing, 14 such communications had been received by the interim secretariat.

20. At the request of the Committee (decision 10/1), an analysis, compilation and synthesis of those first communications is being prepared by the interim secretariat. The manner in which the task is being undertaken, with the participation of experts from Governments and intergovernmental organizations but under the responsibility of the interim secretariat, is innovative. The content of the task is a political and intellectual challenge, expected to result in a key substantive input to the first session of the Conference of the Parties. A further process for in-depth review of individual national communications, by teams of experts coordinated by the interim secretariat and possibly involving country visits, was also agreed upon by the Committee and will start early in 1995.

(b) Financial mechanism

21. The other pillar of the Convention, as it now stands, is the financial mechanism, through which developing countries will obtain new and additional financial resources and technology that they need to fulfil their commitments under the Convention. The Convention provides that the financial mechanism will be operated by one or more existing international entities, accountable to the Conference of the Parties and to which the Conference will provide guidance on policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria.

22. The Committee has made good progress in defining modalities for the accountability of the operating entity or entities and considerable headway in giving substance to the elements of guidance on which the Conference of the Parties is to decide. The latter include an eligibility criterion that limits funding through the financial mechanism to developing countries that are parties to the Convention and a programme priority that focuses on planning and capacity-building activities in those countries. Such activities (which the interim secretariat seeks to facilitate - see paras. 46-49 below) would aim to enable those countries to respond to the Convention and in particular to prepare and submit their first national communications of information within three years of the entry into force of the Convention for them. Progress has also been made

in formulating guidance on funding for activities related to adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change. The Committee has, from time to time, requested work by the interim secretariat to throw light on certain potential areas of guidance to the financial mechanism; the most recent example seeks to explore how the provisions of the Convention relating to the transfer of technology could be made operational. The outcome of the Committee's work on the financial mechanism is recapitulated in the report on its tenth session. 4/

3. Interim arrangements

23. The interim arrangements provided for by article 21 of the Convention, the effective operation of which the Committee is enjoined to promote, include relations with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Global Environment Facility (art. 21, paras. 2 and 3). (The establishment of the interim secretariat, under para. 1 of that article, is dealt with in paras. 41 and 42 below.) These relations manifest themselves, inter alia, in the form of reciprocal representation at meetings by presiding officers or senior secretariat officials, from which information exchange results (e.g. as noted in para. 13 above). Common membership of delegations to those bodies, as well as cooperation between their respective secretariats, provide further impetus to coordination.

24. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is, at present, the main source of scientific information and assessments for the Committee and the Conference of the Parties. Such information and assessments are a further key input, together with information from parties (see paras. 18-20 above), to the determination by the Conference of the adequacy of commitments under the Convention. Scientific uncertainty about climate change and its impacts continues to be a major factor in the debate on the implementation and possible strengthening of the Convention. However, in addressing the Committee at its tenth session, the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change stressed that the slow response of the climate system to measures to address climate change argued for action now, despite such uncertainty.

25. The Intergovernmental Panel is currently working on its second assessment report, to be completed in 1995. In response to the needs of the first session of the Conference of the Parties, the Panel will complete in November 1994 a special report that will bring up to date the findings contained in its first assessment report (1990) and its supplementary report (1992). Regular consultations have been instituted between the officers of the Committee and their counterparts in the Panel, in order to enhance the responsiveness of the latter's work programme to the needs of the Convention.

26. With the entry into force of the Convention and the adoption by the governing bodies of UNDP, UNEP and IBRD of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, the Facility has become the operating entity of the financial mechanism on an interim basis. The Facility has been replenished at a level of approximately $2 billion for the period 1994-1997. The Council of the Facility, which met for the first time in July 1994, will prepare an operational strategy to guide the use of those funds, including an element related to climate change. The latter will be completed in

1995, in the light of the decisions of the first session of the Conference of the Parties.

27. Formal relations between the Committee and the Global Environment Facility, as the interim operating entity, entered a new phase with the adoption by the former, at its tenth session, of a decision addressed to the latter. 5/ Among other things, that decision invites the Global Environment Facility to ensure that its relevant activities until the first session of the Conference of the Parties are in conformity with the Committee's conclusions regarding guidance to the operating entity. Thereby, for example, the Facility will be expected to give initial priority to support for planning and capacity-building activities in developing country parties (see para. 22 above). The decision further invited the Facility to provide, for consideration by the first session of the Conference of the Parties, a report on its activities in the area of climate change and another containing information that could assist the review of the interim arrangements to be carried out by the first session. The Committee's decision will be before the Council of the Facility at its next meeting (Washington, D.C., 1-3 November 1994).

4. Outstanding issues

28. While the Committee has made substantial advances in building consensus on the implementation of the Convention, much remains to be done on that front, as well as on that of the further development of the Convention. The outstanding questions of implementation include the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies; arrangements for the permanent secretariat of the Convention; and whether to maintain the Global Environment Facility as the operating entity of the financial mechanism. The key political question regarding the development of the Convention is whether and how commitments need to be strengthened to ensure an adequate rate of progress towards the objective of the Convention. The eleventh session of the Committee will, therefore, have an intense workload, comprising both sets of questions, and a heavy responsibility to prepare the ground for a constructive first session of the Conference of the Parties.

(a) Arrangements for the Convention secretariat

29. Arrangements for the permanent secretariat of the Convention are to be determined by the first session of the Conference of the Parties. The Committee has agreed that, in the interest of continuity, these arrangements should be built on the foundation of the interim secretariat, that decisions thereon should not be delayed beyond the first session of the Conference of the Parties and that the arrangements should take effect from 1 January 1996. Accordingly, it is envisaged that the present transitional arrangements will continue until 31 December 1995 (see paras. 56-60 below).

30. Meanwhile, the Committee has before it a number of options relating to the institutional and geographical location of the Convention secretariat, including the possibilities of linking it institutionally and administratively to the United Nations Secretariat, UNDP or UNEP; establishing it in Germany (Bonn), Kenya (Nairobi), Switzerland (Geneva) or Uruguay (Montevideo), or in other

countries yet to come forward, at the invitation of their respective Governments; and placing it in common premises, and perhaps in a common administrative framework, with other related secretariats (this approach being known as "co-location"). In addition, the Committee is considering financial rules and procedures relating to the Convention budget (e.g. scope and size of budget, budgetary review and approval, sources and sharing of funding). 6/

31. Prior to further consideration and action thereon by the Committee at its eleventh session, those matters will be considered by a Contact Group composed of the Chairman of the Committee and its four Vice-Chairmen, together representing the five regional groups and thus facilitating consultation with all delegations. Prospective host Governments have been invited to submit details of their offers, for compilation, comparison and study by the Contact Group.

32. With regard to the institutional linkage, it was observed that the three possible points of anchorage are parts of the same United Nations Organization and have complementary mandates and capacities. Consequently, the Secretary-General has been invited to advise on an institutional arrangement for the permanent secretariat that would meet certain criteria. 7/ Work has started on a response to that invitation.

(b) Maintenance of the interim arrangements for the financial mechanism

33. The first session of the Conference of the Parties is to review the arrangements whereby the Global Environment Facility operates the financial mechanism on an interim basis and to decide whether they shall be maintained. A further review of the functioning of the financial mechanism is to be carried out by the Conference within four years thereafter.

34. In reaching a conclusion at the first session of the Conference of the Parties, much will depend on the assessment by Governments of the effectiveness in practice of the negotiated division of functions between the formulation of policy guidance (by the Conference) and the preparation and implementation of operational strategies and programmes (by the Global Environment Facility). The perceived responsiveness of the Facility to the interim guidance emanating from the Committee is also likely to be a key factor in that respect. That assessment will be based, inter alia, on the outcome of the initial meetings of the Council of the Facility and on the reports requested of the Facility by Committee decision 10/3.

35. For its part, the Committee has still to complete the preparatory work needed to facilitate a decision on the matter by the first session of the Conference of the Parties. Indeed, a vital element of the modalities for the operation of the financial mechanism - the determination of the amount of funding necessary and available to implement the Convention - has yet to be addressed in substance by the Committee. There may therefore be considerable pressure at the eleventh session of the Committee to make up ground on that and related subjects.

(c) Development of the Convention

36. The foregoing account of the work of the Committee may be said to relate to the implementation of the Convention as negotiated and adopted in 1992. A further chapter concerns the prospect of negotiating new commitments to strengthen the Convention. The need for such new commitments remains controversial.

37. There are divergent points of view on the adequacy of present commitments by annex I parties to meet the objective of the Convention and on the need for new scientific evidence to justify any change in the status quo (on which see paras. 24 and 25 above). Some Governments consider that negotiations of new commitments relating to the limitation of emissions of greenhouse gases for the period beyond 2000 should be launched at the first session of the Conference of the Parties, on the basis of available scientific information, for conclusion within three years or so. Indeed, a draft protocol entailing such commitments by annex I parties has been formally proposed six months in advance of the first session, for adoption at it. 8/ Other Governments continue to counsel a cautious approach, not only on grounds of scientific uncertainty and the need for a thorough prior assessment of the effectiveness of present commitments by annex I parties, but also out of concern with the direct or indirect impacts of new commitments on their economic development prospects. That concern is inspired largely by the suggestion that a new generation of commitments should extend beyond annex I parties.

38. A related and also unresolved question is that of criteria for the joint implementation of policies and measures, on which decisions are to be taken by the first session of the Conference of the Parties and which is seen by some as a means to achieve cost-effectiveness in limiting emissions of greenhouse gases. Although joint implementation applies to existing commitments under the Convention, there is no consensus within the Committee as to whether or not it should extend beyond annex I parties.

39. The divergences on the question are related in part to the debate on new commitments. Some participants in the debate, who believe that joint implementation should be open to all parties, also see it as an essential dimension of new commitments by annex I parties to limit emissions. Others consider that joint implementation should be limited to annex I parties, at least until it is clear how the latter will implement their present commitments and what additional commitments they will accept. Hence, the negotiations on the two questions appear to be linked. Consequently, the Committee has not been able to advance far in working out criteria for joint implementation and it has not been possible to launch an experimental pilot phase to test such criteria.

IV. ACTION BY THE SECRETARIAT

A. Calendar of conferences

40. Action has been taken, in response to paragraph 7 of resolution 47/195, to provide services for the Committee to hold its seventh to eleventh sessions, according to the schedule indicated in paragraphs 9 and 10 above.

B. Establishment and strengthening of the interim secretariat

41. The ad hoc secretariat established by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/212 has been transformed into the interim secretariat of the Convention. With effect from April 1993, the interim secretariat was located administratively in the newly formed Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. It has been able to function in that framework with an appropriate degree of autonomy, while contributing to the work of the department in support of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The resources provided explicitly for the interim secretariat from the United Nations programme budget for the current biennium have been modestly increased over their level in the preceding biennium (by two General Service posts), while the level of staff support from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UNEP has been maintained.

42. The strengthening of the interim secretariat, called for by the General Assembly in paragraph 11 of its resolution 47/195, has been achieved largely by the use of money contributed to the trust fund for the negotiating process established under paragraph 20 of resolution 45/212 (see para. 52, below). In addition, the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development provides substantive and administrative staff support, while some substantive staff have been provided under bilateral funding arrangements (previously by France and jointly by Norway and Sweden; currently by the Netherlands and Norway). Adequate premises for the interim secretariat have been made available at the Geneva Executive Centre since early 1994; these are currently free of rent, by decision of the Government of Switzerland, which has also contributed to the cost of partitioning and furnishing the premises.

C. Activities of the interim secretariat, including facilitation of technical cooperation

43. The main thrust of the work of the interim secretariat continues to be the response to the needs of the Committee and of the first session of the Conference of the Parties for documentation and for the organization of their sessions. Demands upon the secretariat for substantive inputs continue to grow and to change in character (see, for example, paras. 20 and 22 above).

44. Substantive cooperation with secretariats of other international bodies within and outside the United Nations system continues to be actively sought and obtained. Those efforts are bearing fruit in a number of areas, including work on the first review of information communicated by annex I parties and on the financial mechanism, activities relating to technical cooperation and public

information. In the latter area, the UNEP/WMO Information Unit on Climate Change is the principal partner of the interim secretariat.

45. The interim secretariat has been developing an information system as a support service to its activities (for example, the above-mentioned review of information and technical cooperation activities), as well as to Governments and other participants in the Convention process. In effect, efficient gathering, processing and dissemination of data and information, as well as internal and external communications, are increasingly important factors in the strengthening of the interim secretariat.

46. In seeking to facilitate technical and financial support for developing country Parties, as required by the Convention and called for in paragraphs 8 and 9 of resolution 47/195, the interim secretariat has taken two main initiatives, each in cooperation with another United Nations body.

47. An information exchange system (CC:INFO), set up and operated jointly with UNEP, which contributes some of its costs, provides information on demand for and supply of technical and financial resources to support activities related to climate change in developing and other countries. That information covers multilateral and bilateral sources of such support; it is also relevant to the financial mechanism. A first compilation of material from CC:INFO was circulated during the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

48. A training programme (CC:TRAIN), aimed at promoting national policy dialogue and building national capacities for the implementation of the Convention, has been launched in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). This is a UNDP project, financed by the Global Environment Facility. In its pilot phase, CC:TRAIN has conducted activities, including workshops and seminars, in Lithuania, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe. It is now being evaluated, as a prelude to a second, expanded and multilingual phase.

49. The Committee has encouraged and monitored those two initiatives, which provide support for the type of activity to which it has assigned priority in the context of the financial mechanism (see paras. 22 and 27 above). The interim secretariat has been consulting with UNDP, UNEP and UNITAR on the feasibility of organizing the design and timely delivery of assistance for such activities within a common programme framework (CC:COPE). That framework could also serve to coordinate the related activities of bilateral development cooperation agencies. The Committee supported those objectives and called for the continuation of consultations with the Global Environment Facility and other sources of finance to explore how they could be realized and funded. 9/

D. Extrabudgetary funds

50. The special voluntary fund, established under paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, to support participation in the Committee, continues to play an invaluable role. Contributions to the fund since its establishment in 1991, together with separate but related contributions for the same purpose and current pledges, total some $5 million. 10/ In accordance with resolution 45/212, support from the fund is destined for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing countries; in its resolution 47/195, the Assembly, extended particular attention to developing countries stricken by drought and desertification. In addition, the fund has been used to receive and disburse monies that are earmarked by their contributors to support the participation of countries of Central and Eastern Europe with economies in transition.

51. The ability of the interim secretariat to offer support from the fund has varied according to the level of resources available. At the maximum, offers of support were made to 134 developing and other countries for participation in the eighth session of the Committee and 108 delegates to that session were so financed. Since then, the reduced inflow of funds has caused the interim secretariat to focus its offers of financial support on delegates from eligible countries that have deposited instruments of ratification or accession or that are least developed or small island developing countries. Under these limitations, support for participation in the ninth and tenth sessions of the Committee was offered, respectively, to 81 and 95 countries and actually utilized by 68 and 80 of these.

52. The trust fund for the negotiating process, established under paragraph 20 of resolution 45/212, has become the main source of finance for the expansion in the activities of the interim secretariat, in response to demand from the Committee. Total contributions received and pledged since the establishment of the fund, together with a related contribution in kind, are of the order of $3.5 million. 11/

53. The two extrabudgetary funds are managed by the head of the interim secretariat (the Executive Secretary) under the authority of the Secretary-General and under the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. The Executive Secretary reports regularly to the Committee on needs for replenishing those funds; the latest such report is contained in document A/AC.237/61. Contributions to the funds are greatly appreciated and continue to be needed on an increased scale. 12/

V. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

54. Recognizing that article 7, paragraph 4, of the Convention provides that the first session of the Conference of the Parties shall be convened, by the head of the interim secretariat, to meet not later than one year after the date of entry into force of the Convention (i.e. by 21 March 1995), the Committee, at its ninth session, noted that the Executive Secretary would write to the parties requesting their consent to the session being convened one week beyond the limit

set by the Convention. Since no objections were received from parties, arrangements are being made by the Executive Secretary to convene the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at Berlin from 28 March to 7 April 1995, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 48/189.

55. The Committee, at its tenth session, held a first discussion of arrangements for the first session of the Conference of the Parties, during which it received information on arrangements being made by and with the host Government. It recommended, inter alia, that the session be held in two segments, concluding with a ministerial segment from 5 to 7 April 1995; that all officers of the subsidiary bodies be elected during the first session; and that the Chairman of the Committee conduct preliminary informal consultations on the election of the officers of the Conference and of its subsidiary bodies.

VI. TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

56. Planning by the Committee for the decisions by the first session of the Conference of the Parties on the establishment of arrangements for the permanent secretariat envisage their taking effect from 1 January 1996 (see para. 29 above). The transitional period between the first session of the Conference of the Parties and the end of 1995 would be used for setting up the new institutional arrangements and financial procedures, for collecting the first contributions by parties to the Convention budget, as well as for securing premises and mobilizing staff, as may be needed. Consequently, the interim arrangements to support the work of the Convention bodies will need to be extended to 31 December 1995.

57. Provision for the interim secretariat within the current United Nations programme budget already extends to the end of the biennium. No further action is needed to secure that funding.

58. Administrative action by the Secretary-General could ensure the continuation to 31 December 1995 of the two extrabudgetary funds established under resolution 45/212, should the General Assembly so request. The special voluntary fund could thus be used to support participation in the sessions of subsidiary bodies that the Conference of the Parties is expected to require during 1995, to carry forward its work on the implementation of the Convention.

59. Furthermore, the General Assembly could decide to include those sessions of subsidiary bodies within the United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings for 1994-1995, as was decided for the first session of the Conference of the Parties in resolution 48/189. While the Conference has yet to decide on a programme of work, the latest indications from the deliberations of the Committee have led the interim secretariat to plan for two weeks of meetings in October 1995. This plan is intended to accommodate the initial needs of the two subsidiary bodies established by the Convention. It does not provide for any additional meeting time that might be needed if the first session of the Conference of the Parties were to decide to convene other bodies to conduct technical work or negotiations.

60. The General Assembly may wish to consider and act upon the suggestions in the two preceding paragraphs.

Notes

1/ A/AC.237/76, para. 22 (d).

2/ Ibid., para. 12.

3/ A/AC.237/24, paras. 43 and 44.

4/ A/AC.237/76, chap. VI, sect. A.

5/ Ibid., annex I, decision 10/3.

6/ Ibid., chap. VIII.

7/ Ibid., para. 123.

8/ A/AC.237/L.23 and Add.1.

9/ A/AC.237/75 and A/AC.237/76, chap. VI, sect. C.

10/ A/AC.237/61, annex IV.

11/ Ibid., annex II.

12/ A/AC.237/76, para. 131.

ANNEX

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:
Status of Signatures and Ratifications

	State	Date of signature	Ratification
1.	Afghanistan	12 June 1992	
2.	Albania	-	3 October 1994 a/
3.	Algeria	13 June 1992	9 June 1993 b/
4.	Andorra	-	
5.	Angola	14 June 1992	
6.	Antigua and Barbuda	4 June 1992	2 February 1993 b/
7.	Argentina	12 June 1992	11 March 1994 b/
8.	Armenia	13 June 1992	14 May 1993 b/
9.	Australia	4 June 1992	30 December 1992 b/
10.	Austria	8 June 1992	28 February 1994 b/
11.	Azerbaijan	12 June 1992	
12.	Bahamas	12 June 1992	29 March 1994 b/
13.	Bahrain	8 June 1992	
14.	Bangladesh	9 June 1992	15 April 1994 b/
15.	Barbados	12 June 1992	23 March 1994 b/
16.	Belarus	11 June 1992	
17.	Belgium	4 June 1992	
18.	Belize	13 June 1992	
19.	Benin	13 June 1992	30 June 1994 b/
20.	Bhutan	11 June 1992	
21.	Bolivia	10 June 1992	3 October 1994 b/
22.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	

	State	Date of signature	Ratification
23.	Botswana	12 June 1992	27 January 1994 b/
24.	Brazil	4 June 1992	28 February 1994 b/
25.	Brunei Darussalam	-	
26.	Bulgaria	5 June 1992	
27.	Burkina Faso	12 June 1992	2 September 1993 b/
28.	Burundi	11 June 1992	
29.	Cambodia	-	
30.	Cameroon	14 June 1992	
31.	Canada	12 June 1992	4 December 1992 b/
32.	Cape Verde	12 June 1992	
33.	Central African Republic	13 June 1992	
34.	Chad	12 June 1992	7 June 1994 b/
35.	Chile	13 June 1992	
36.	China	11 June 1992	5 January 1993 b/
37.	Colombia	13 June 1992	
38.	Comoros	11 June 1992	
39.	Congo	12 June 1992	
40.	Cook Islands	12 June 1992	20 April 1993 b/
41.	Costa Rica	13 June 1992	26 August 1994 b/
42.	Côte d'Ivoire	10 June 1992	
43.	Croatia	11 June 1992	
44.	Cuba	13 June 1992	5 January 1994 b/
45.	Cyprus	12 June 1992	
46.	Czech Republic	18 June 1993	7 October 1992 c/

	State	Date of signature	Ratification
47.	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	11 June 1992	
48.	Denmark	9 June 1992	21 December 1993 b/
49.	Djibouti	12 June 1992	
50.	Dominica	-	21 June 1993 b/
51.	Dominican Republic	12 June 1992	
52.	Ecuador	9 June 1992	23 February 1993 b/
53.	Egypt	9 June 1992	
54.	El Salvador	13 June 1992	
55.	Equatorial Guinea	-	
56.	Eritrea	-	
57.	Estonia	12 June 1992	27 July 1994 b/
58.	Ethiopia	10 June 1992	5 April 1994 b/
59.	Fiji	9 October 1992	25 February 1993 b/
60.	Finland	4 June 1992	3 May 1994 d/
61.	France	13 June 1992	25 March 1994 b/
62.	Gabon	12 June 1992	
63.	Gambia	12 June 1992	10 June 1994 b/
64.	Georgia	-	29 July 1994 a/
65.	Germany	12 June 1992	9 December 1993 b/
66.	Ghana	12 June 1992	
67.	Greece	12 June 1992	4 August 1994 b/
68.	Grenada	3 December 1992	11 August 1994 b/
69.	Guatemala	13 June 1992	
70.	Guinea	12 June 1992	7 May 1993 b/

	State	Date of signature	Ratification
71.	Guinea-Bissau	12 June 1992	
72.	Guyana	13 June 1992	29 August 1994 b/
73.	Haiti	13 June 1992	
74.	Holy See	-	
75.	Honduras	13 June 1992	
76.	Hungary	13 June 1992	24 February 1994 b/
77.	Iceland	4 June 1992	16 June 1993 b/
78.	India	10 June 1992	1 November 1993 b/
79.	Indonesia	5 June 1992	23 August 1994 b/
80.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	14 June 1992	
81.	Iraq	-	
82.	Ireland	13 June 1992	20 April 1994 b/
83.	Israel	4 June 1992	
84.	Italy	5 June 1992	15 April 1994 b/
85.	Jamaica	12 June 1992	
86.	Japan	13 June 1992	28 May 1993 d/
87.	Jordan	11 June 1992	12 November 1993 b/
88.	Kazakhstan	8 June 1992	
89.	Kenya	12 June 1992	30 August 1994 b/
90.	Kiribati	13 June 1992	
91.	Kuwait	-	
92.	Kyrgyzstan	-	
93.	Lao People's Democratic Republic	-	

	State	Date of signature	Ratification
94.	Latvia	11 June 1992	
95.	Lebanon	12 June 1992	
96.	Lesotho	11 June 1992	
97.	Liberia	12 June 1992	
98.	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	29 June 1992	
99.	Liechtenstein	4 June 1992	22 June 1994 b/
100.	Lithuania	11 June 1992	
101.	Luxembourg	9 June 1992	9 May 1994 b/
102.	Madagascar	10 June 1992	
103.	Malawi	10 June 1992	21 April 1994 b/
104.	Malaysia	9 June 1993	13 July 1994 b/
105.	Maldives	12 June 1992	9 November 1992 b/
106.	Mali	22 September 1992	
107.	Malta	12 June 1992	17 March 1994 b/
108.	Marshall Islands	12 June 1992	8 October 1992 b/
109.	Mauritania	12 June 1992	20 January 1994 b/
110.	Mauritius	10 June 1992	4 September 1992 b/
111.	Mexico	13 June 1992	11 March 1993 b/
112.	Micronesia (Federated States of)	12 June 1992	18 November 1993 b/
113.	Monaco	11 June 1992	24 November 1992 b/
114.	Mongolia	12 June 1992	30 September 1993 b/
115.	Morocco	13 June 1992	
116.	Mozambique	12 June 1992	

	State	Date of signature	Ratification
117.	Myanmar	11 June 1992	
118.	Namibia	12 June 1992	
119.	Nauru	8 June 1992	11 November 1993 b/
120.	Nepal	12 June 1992	2 May 1994 b/
121.	Netherlands	4 June 1992	20 December 1993 d/
122.	New Zealand	4 June 1992	16 September 1993 b/
123.	Nicaragua	13 June 1992	
124.	Niger	11 June 1992	
125.	Nigeria	13 June 1992	29 August 1994 b/
126.	Norway	4 June 1992	9 July 1993 b/
127.	Oman	11 June 1992	
128.	Pakistan	13 June 1992	1 June 1994 b/
129.	Panama	18 March 1993	
130.	Papua New Guinea	13 June 1992	16 March 1993 b/
131.	Paraguay	12 June 1992	24 February 1994 b/
132.	Peru	12 June 1992	7 June 1993 b/
133.	Philippines	12 June 1992	2 August 1994 b/
134.	Poland	5 June 1992	28 July 1994 b/
135.	Portugal	13 June 1992	21 December 1993 b/
136.	Qatar	-	
137.	Republic of Korea	13 June 1992	14 December 1993 b/
138.	Republic of Moldova	12 June 1992	
139.	Romania	5 June 1992	8 June 1994 b/
140.	Russian Federation	13 June 1992	

	State	Date of signature	Ratification
141.	Rwanda	10 June 1992	
142.	Saint Kitts and Nevis	12 June 1992	7 January 1993 b/
143.	Saint Lucia	14 June 1993	14 June 1993 b/
144.	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	-	
145.	Samoa	12 June 1992	
146.	San Marino	10 June 1992	
147.	Sao Tome and Principe	12 June 1992	
148.	Saudi Arabia	-	
149.	Senegal	13 June 1992	
150.	Seychelles	10 June 1992	22 September 1992 b/
151.	Sierra Leone	11 February 1993	
152.	Singapore	13 June 1992	
153.	Slovakia	19 May 1993	25 August 1994 c/
154.	Slovenia	13 June 1992	
155.	Solomon Islands	13 June 1992	
156.	Somalia	-	
157.	South Africa	15 June 1993	
158.	Spain	13 June 1992	21 December 1993 b/
159.	Sri Lanka	10 June 1992	23 November 1993 b/
160.	Sudan	9 June 1992	19 November 1993 b/
161.	Suriname	13 June 1992	
162.	Swaziland	12 June 1992	
163.	Sweden	8 June 1992	23 June 1993 b/
164.	Switzerland	12 June 1992	10 December 1993 b/

	State	Date of signature	Ratification
165.	Syrian Arab Republic	-	
166.	Tajikistan	-	
167.	Thailand	12 June 1992	
168.	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	-	
169.	Togo	12 June 1992	
170.	Tonga	-	
171.	Trinidad and Tobago	11 June 1992	24 June 1994 b/
172.	Tunisia	13 June 1992	15 July 1993 b/
173.	Turkey	-	
174.	Turkmenistan	-	
175.	Tuvalu	8 June 1992	26 October 1993 b/
176.	Uganda	13 June 1992	8 September 1993 b/
177.	Ukraine	11 June 1992	
178.	United Arab Emirates	-	
179.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	12 June 1992	8 December 1993 b/
180.	United Republic of Tanzania	12 June 1992	
181.	United States of America	12 June 1992	15 October 1992 b/
182.	Uruguay	4 June 1992	18 August 1994 b/
183.	Uzbekistan	-	20 June 1993 a/
184.	Vanuatu	9 June 1992	25 March 1993 b/
185.	Venezuela	12 June 1992	
186.	Viet Nam	11 June 1992	

	State	Date of signature	Ratification
187.	Yemen	12 June 1992	
188.	Yugoslavia	8 June 1992	
189.	Zaire	11 June 1992	
190.	Zambia	11 June 1992	28 May 1993 b/
191.	Zimbabwe	12 June 1992	3 November 1992 b/
Organization			
	European Economic Community	13 June 1992	21 December 1993 c/
	Total	166	95

a/ Accession.

b/ Ratification.

c/ Approval.

d/ Acceptance.